News-Item "In the Face of Bio-Terror, Government Talks of More Action Plan"

36. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned ""In the face of bio-terror, Government talks of more action plan", which appeared in the Times of India dated 30th October, 2001;

(b) if so, the samples of the medicines tested by Government to face disaster and Anthrax; and

(c) the details of such samples found correct and the number of samples found fictitious and the action taken / proposed to be taken against the manufacturers to protect the public?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Drugs like ciprofloxin, doxycycline have been reported to be useful in treating anthrax. A large number of manufacturers and marketing these drugs. There is no general complaint about any spurious ciprofloxin or doxycycline. All State Drug Controllers have been advised to keep a strict check on possible movement of any spurious / counterfeit drugs and guidelines to be adopted for focussed activity in this area has been circulated.

National Health Policy

37. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are in the process of finalizing a National Health Policy to ensure adequate standards of public health care;

(b) whether the policy aims at establishing a regulatory mechanism to provide facilities for diagnosis, treatment and infrastructure far extending medical services to all;

(c) whether the insurance scheme are to be introduced to cover all aspects of medical services; and

(d) if so, the details of this policy and the time-frame of its implementation?